

Questions You Are Likely to Encounter

Why aren't local Forest Service offices handling this anymore?

Local Forest Service units will be able to work with you on river information and issues, instead of doing paperwork. The National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS) is a Forest Service organization. NRRS uses the latest technology to reduce paper handling, increase accuracy and improve privacy information protection.

Why are you handing off the 4-Rivers Lottery to an outside source?

NRRS is a Forest Service organization that uses an approved federal contractor to provide recreation reservation services to the public. NRRS is better equipped to keep up with changing technology and to keep personal information secure - E-commerce is their job.

What is the National Reservation Recreation System (NRRS) and who are their partners?

The National Recreation Reservation Service is your one-stop reservation resource. The Forest Service also provides reservation services for the recreation facilities and activities offered by the US Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation. It's at www.recreation.gov.

How much will it cost?

For the last 15 years, the application fee has been \$6, and it will remain at \$6 for the 2010 lottery season. However, you can now submit four applications instead of just one. Each application can list up to four launch dates. Four applications would cost you \$24. A credit card or debit card is required. You can submit all your applications with just one visit to recreation.gov.

Can I phone in my application?

No. The only way to apply is online.

What if I don't have the Internet?

Most local libraries and all Forest Service offices have Internet capabilities.

What are the benefits to me?

Each river will have its own lottery. Thus, you will be able to apply for four launch date choices on each river. You will be able to check the results of your application(s) much sooner than in past years because results will quickly be posted online. No more waiting for letters or emails. Your application information will be more secure and private. You can look for available cancelled launches online anytime of the day or night.

What if I'm waiting for the ice to go out for a main Salmon trip and don't know what day I'll be able to launch?

You may still get a permit on the day you launch (outside the lottery season) and pick up your permit at the North Fork office or at Corn Creek---just let us know you'll be there.

How will I find the 4-Rivers Lottery site?

Go to www.recreation.gov

What is Recreation.gov?

Recreation.gov is your one-stop shopping center for a variety of recreation reservations on public lands. There is a large amount of recreation information and help available through recreation.gov.

Can I phone in to get cancellations?

Yes, you can find out if a cancellation is available through the NRRS by calling (877) 550-6777. It will be easier if you have a profile and you must still reserve the cancellation via recreation.gov.

What if I have problems or questions when I'm entering my application?

There will be a Call Center available to assist you. Help information will be posted at recreation.gov as you fill out your application.

How do I pay my Recreation Fees for the wild section of the Salmon and Middle Fork?

You'll pay on-line with a credit card. A secure program will inform you immediately if there is an error such as an incorrect number or entry.

Who is ReserveAmerica?

ReserveAmerica is the contractor NRRS will use to create the database and produce reports needed to run the lottery. ReserveAmerica has state-of-the-art technologies to handle the 4 Rivers Lottery.

How reliable is this new program?

NRRS runs the reservation system for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. It works well. NRRS reserves campgrounds, cabins, and tour centers. They have done so throughout the country for many years. In the future, you may see several more permitted river programs using this system.

How will Reserve America know about river conditions and provide the information I may need for my trip?

Reserve America already has "alert notices" it uses to inform people about changing conditions. The Forest Service river staff will be able to create and post these safety alerts or information notices through the NRRS system for the four rivers. You will be able to check online for any posted information. And you can still call the local river offices for specialized information.

Who gets the money?

Fees we collect help pay for our work running the lottery and they pay for NRRS expenses, too. The recreation fee collected on the Middle Fork and main Salmon Rivers will still go back to the river program. This money funds launch sites, road maintenance, river rangers and management of both rivers.

Can I still call the Ranger Stations that I have worked with before? Yes, we will still be here and able to help with your questions. But, we can't make permit applications or reservations for you. You'll have to do that yourself, online at www.recreation.gov.

What payment methods are accepted through Recreation.gov?

Recreation.gov accepts payment by credit or debit card, including: VISA, Master Card, Discover and American Express. **Recreation.gov Billing Information:** Customer's monthly credit card statements will show "Recreation.gov 888-448-1474" for reservation transactions.

Is my personal information I enter on Recreation.gov kept confidential?

Recreation.gov has a privacy policy designed to protect your personal information and inform you about how they handle it. This privacy policy applies to transactions made, and data gathered on the secure Recreation.gov web site. For more information, please see the privacy and security section at this website.

Will the pre/post season on the Middle Fork be first come/first serve like the "call in" has been, or is it a lottery?

It will still be first come/first serve, but the online reservation system will be able to handle more people faster. Available launch dates, or a calendar will be posted for your selection. For this first year, we expect the start date for these pre/post season reservations to begin on December 1, 2009. This date will revert to October 1 after this first year.

Can I reserve camps over the internet? No, camps will still be assigned at the launch site.